

2019 - 2021 Work Plan: Project Planning

PROJECT INFORMATION

Council Goal: Economic Vitality

Strategy: Build community and economic resiliency in response to COVID-19

Action/Project: Supporting vulnerable populations with an equity framework

OWNER/KEY STAFF

Owner: Shelly Smith

Key Staff: Carolyn Eagan, Lynne McConnell, Brian Kindel, Anne Aurand

Stakeholders: Deschutes County (Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Emergency Management), Homeless Leadership Coalition, and local nonprofits working with vulnerable populations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

COVID-19 has had a disproportional impact on traditionally vulnerable and marginalized communities. Vulnerable populations are those who are typically excluded, disadvantaged or marginalized based on their economic, environmental, social, or cultural characteristics. To address this we must ensure that public agencies and nonprofits are coordinating efforts to both identify critical needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and creatively and collaboratively respond with appropriate personnel and financial support as identified by Federal and State relief programs, such as the Community Relief Funding (CRF) from the CARES Act.

This plan and the specific project objectives listed below takes into consideration an unknown future related to the impacts of COVID-19 in our community. It will focus on prioritizing current needs and related resources (basic human needs for food, hygiene, and lodging) that the City has already deployed, as well as future stabilization efforts as we move forward. The following project objectives stem from the elements highlighted in the [*State of Oregon Equity Framework in COVID-19 Response and Recovery*](#) and aim to prioritize equity, which is the “equal treatment, access, and opportunity, achieved by recognition that everyone has different needs/faces different barriers.” (Allyship in Action, COB DEI Introduction)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Sustain an active partnership with Deschutes County Public and Behavioral Health and local nonprofits to identify and quickly respond to COVID-19 related emergent needs for all vulnerable populations.
2. Assist Deschutes County and other local nonprofits in the development and distribution of COVID-19 communications with focus on the needs of vulnerable populations. Inclusive

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communications are comprised of: the translation of documents in multiple languages; accessible to all (in compliance with ADA); created with an emphasis on trauma-informed practices and vetted/input from community members; provided on multiple platforms (social media, radio, print, and websites); and delivered by trusted messengers.

3. Ensure basic hygiene needs continue to be available specific to the COVID-19 pandemic (handwashing stations, community resource mapping tool, public bathroom access, and others as identified).
4. Continue and/or create new contracts with nonprofits to ensure critical service delivery for vulnerable populations (currently hold contracts with REACH for case management and Family Kitchen for food/meals to go).
5. Facilitate continued land use/infrastructure research and coordination for temporary housing/managed camps for the unsheltered (including but not limited to legislative advocacy, emergency declaration language, and grant funding).
6. Apply for appropriate funding as it becomes available. Leverage community partnership including Deschutes County, to deploy financial support acquired from grants.
7. Participate in citywide collaborative efforts (Shared Governance Model, Community DEI Conversations, etc.) and once objectives and plans are created, allocate staff and financial resources to accomplish collective goals.

PROJECT COMPLETION/SUCCESS

1. The City of Bend is a key partner with Deschutes County public and nonprofit agencies by assisting in identifying and resourcing critical needs for vulnerable populations.
2. Support inclusive communication related to COVID-19 and resources available for vulnerable populations. This may include translating documents, making them accessible and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), distributing through trusted messengers, and providing in appropriate mediums (social media, website, radio, and print).
3. Community Relief Funds (CRF) and other potential Federal and State grant or other funding opportunities are pursued and successful.

COUNCIL ACTIONS REQUIRED

Approve the revised goal

Advocate for legislative initiatives related to these revised goals and financial grant opportunities (as appropriate)

OVERALL PROJECT TIMELINE

[illegible][illegible]